meet the pressing and urgent needs of the village communities dealt wi h. As only the interest and no portion of the corpus of the investment is intended to be spent, the proposed scheme can be continued for as long a period as is necessary to bring all the villages of the country within its scope. I am sure that this proposal will be hailed with enthusiasm by the whole House. Travancore is pre-eminently an agricultural country and the village has been the pulse of life in this land from time immemorial. The villages of Travancore have a primeval simplicity and an attractiveness, all their own; and if the villager thinks of deserting his village for the costlier, but by no means the healthier life of the Town, it is only because his village does not provide the amenities of life, which modern man has grown to appreciate. With a view therefore to ensuring the health, contentment and happiness of the villager in his own natural home and to check the exodus to the cities it is proposed to launch on a scheme for providing amenities of life in all the villages of the State in the shape of supply of good drinking water, easy medical aid, entertainment and contact with the outside world through radio-sets etc. The ultimate effect of this scheme, when worked out to its completion, will be that Travancore will be rich in a happy, contended and healthy rural population. I shall now refer to some of the more important features of the next year's programme of expenditure.

9. *Education.* The provisions of the free compulsory Primary Education Act of 1121, have already been implemented in the taluks of Thovala and Agastiswaram and in the Municipal Towns of Nagercoil and Trivandrum. The scheme has had a ready response and hearty co-operation from the public in general and from the management of private schools in particular. Buildings, furniture and staff have been freely offered to be released to Government. The London Mission Society has so far released 33 school buildings, the Salvation Army, 6 and individual managements, 27 and Government's thanks are due, in a large measure, to these institutions and individuals for their unstinted co-operation. A committee has been appointed to advise the Director of Public Instruction on matters connected with the working of the compulsory Primary Education Scheme. It is proposed to extend the scheme to at least three more taluks during the course of the next year, for which a provision of Rs 10·5 lakhs is included in the budget under Post-War Reconstruction Schemes.

10. *Food.* The experience of the last five and a half years following the declaration of the war has brought home to us the imperative necessity for intense cultivation and scientific development of our natural resources with a view to becoming as selfreliant

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